[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

Rs. 7,000 is provided under expenditure for the hospital. It is purely a matter of account adjustment. Rs. 6,000 is for the purchase of raw materials for preparation of medicines. More than Rs. 6,000 was formerly provided under the advance head. We require medicine for the hospital, and for preparing that, we have to purchase raw materials and manufacture the medicines and the manufactured medicine is given at certain prices to the hospital and receipts are obtained *per contra* as credit to Rs. 8,000 on the receipts side. That is the necessity for that provision.

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): In view of that explanation, I do not press it.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motions 299 to 307.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,538 for Ayurveda Department by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

300. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,535 for Ayurveda Department by Rs. 100.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

301. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,788 for Commissioner by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

302. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 1,500.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

303. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,095 for Vaccine Depôt by Rs. 100.

MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI:

304. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 85,450 for Sanitation and Vaccination by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN:

305. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 85,450 for Sanitation and Vaccination by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

306. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 44,300 for grants for medical purposes by Rs. 100.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY (*Changanachery* cum *Minachil*): My motion has already been discussed and so I do not move.

307. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1·42 lakhs under Demand XVI by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now place Demand XVI—Chemical Examiner, Ayurveda and Sanitation—for Rs. 1·42 lakhs before the House for its vote. I take it that the House sanctions it.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVII.—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2·74 lakhs for Stationery and Printing.

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Motions 308 to 320.

The following motions were not moved:—

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

308. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,84,000 for stationery for public departments by Rs. 20,000.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

309. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for carriage of stationery, packing charges, etc. by Rs. 500.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

310. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for carriage of stationery, packing charges, etc., by Rs. 300.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

311. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,79,500 for stationery by Rs. 100.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

312. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,000 for temporary piecework establishment by Rs. 1,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

313. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,200 for overtime allowances by Rs. 500.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

314. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 13,000 for purchase of plant by Rs. 4,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

315. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,000 for Anchal charges by Rs. 2,000.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

316. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 625 for office expenses by Rs. 300.

MR. V. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI:

317. To omit the allotment of Rs. 1,000 for piece-work establishment.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

318. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 94,540 for Printing by Rs. 100.

MR. M. N. PILLAI:

319. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 94,540 for Printing by Rs. 100.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI:

320. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 2·74 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 100.

(To point out the desirability of using good paper for Government publications.)

Motion 321.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:—

321. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2·74 lakhs under Demand XVII by Rs. 100.

In 1097, at the time of budget it was brought to the notice of the Government that there was too much wastage in the Printing Department. The total receipts from the Press in 1098 amounted to Rs. 21,984 while the expenditure on the Press in the same year was Rs. 1,05,855. Elsewhere in India the attempt of the Government is to run the Press as a commercial concern. A committee was appointed by the Travancore Government to enquire into the working of the Government Press and the Central Prison Press, and that committee submitted its report

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

to the Government before the Budget Session in 1098. The committee had before the submission of the final report sent in an interim report on the *Gazette*, on which orders were passed resulting in an anticipated saving of Rs. 2,915 in piece-work wages and Rs. 7,765 in paper per annum. But the provision for printing made in the budget under discussion does not show any decrease in expenditure. If the Government would pass their final orders on the report of the committee, a decent sum could be conveniently reduced from the provision allotted. The Press Committee had recommended the reduction of hands and other measures for the economical working of the Government Press. The one charge made against the management of the Government Press during the budget discussion in 1099 was that an unduly large amount of money is spent for the purchase of type and plant. In 1098, plant to the value of Rs. 9,746 was purchased. In 1099, Rs. 13,000 was allotted for the purpose. This amount is not at all necessary for the purpose. The machines in the Press are too many for the Press. All machines are not worked and there is not sufficient work for all the hands employed. The work in the foundry is the most unsatisfactory. The average daily output made by a caster was found to be 9 lbs. as against the expected output of 30 lbs. This is due to want of sufficient work. I do not understand the meaning of purchasing type when the employees in the foundry are rotting without any work. A sum of Rs. 1,200 is provided for overtime work this year. There are too many employees in the Press and even these temporary hands are under training. If the piece-workers who are employed before 1090 are to be made permanent as recommended by the committee, the work in the Government Press is very light for them. As Government could, by disposing of the Press Committee's Report and overhauling the Government Press, effect a large saving in expenditure, delay in doing so is simply leading to waste of public money. It is to emphasise this fact that I have moved this motion.

I wish to make a few observations with regard to stationery. I am of opinion that Government will have to devise some measures to curtail the use of stationery. There is nobody in the Stationery Department to utilise the necessary kind of paper. Government were undergoing a loss of Rs. 7,000 and odd in the matter of Gazette printing because suitable paper was not issued and paper of bigger size had to be cut to smaller size. There is no standardisation of forms. If an officer with the help of departmental heads carefully standardised the forms now used by various departments, a large saving could be effected in the expenditure of stationery. The work of standardisation hitherto undertaken is not of a substantial character and the importance of the work has not been fully realised. While I was a member of the Press Committee, I found that a reduction of nine forms used in the Judicial Department had been estimated to bring a saving of Rs. 12,400 a year. There is no rule with regard to the quality of paper to be used in the printing of certain forms. Different kinds of paper are used in

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the same year to print the same form. The size of form, uniformity in the printing thereof and the number of forms ought to be fixed and controlled very carefully. Orders for forms are given without any reference to previous indents that have not been complied with. I found in the Central Prison Press many old Anchal forms unfit for use. Nevertheless, there were fresh orders for new forms. This is due to the absence of correct stock form ledger in the indenting offices. A really competent hand ought to be deputed for the work of standardisation. If the Anchal Department was allowed to get its own stationery and to use cheaper paper, it could be run on a commercial basis. The cost of stationery supplied to the Anchal Department from the Stationery stores is, according to the budget, Rs. 20,000 and the cost of printing comes to Rs. 14,000. I think, if the Anchal Department were left to itself in the matter of stationery and printing, that department would not have to sustain a perpetual deficit.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. Sir, Mr. Madhava Variar's opinion that there is considerable wastage in the matter of stationery and paper in various departments, I am quite sure, is correct. That is one way in which the motion may be supported. There is yet another way in which the motion may be supported. Where there is the necessity, the Government are not spending. For example, we may take the case of a member of this Council who is doing honorary work, not only as a member of this Council, but is also doing work on various committees, for instance, the Vernacular Text Book Committee, the Oriental Manuscripts Publication Committee and various select committees and, in that manner, serving on a number of official committees. When he makes a representation that some stationery may be placed at his disposal to prepare lists of books and to do kindred work, the Government, not even reading the whole of his letter, tell him that no paper will be supplied to members of the Legislative Council.

PRESIDENT: They are supplied paper now.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Except for their use in the Hall. I am qualifying it.

PRESIDENT: You did not say that before.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): The full stop was not reached. (*Laughter.*)

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*): Paper is provided also at meetings of the Select Committees. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): But for all this work, the members stand in need of stationery and paper. If the Government are not prepared to give the members of this Council the necessary assistance in the matter of preparing their business in these sub-committees, select committees and other official committees, I would submit that we are left to deny the supply of paper to the various officers of the Government. The only advantage that the members of the Council have, especially the resident members in Trivandrum, is the daily allowance

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

of Rs. 5. The Government officers who go about also have the same thing. Thus, why should they alone be supplied with paper? In view of this, I am very glad to support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I support the motion of Mr. Madhava Variar. I do not know why the Press Committee's Report has not yet been taken up and final orders passed on it by Government. There is the general complaint that the suggestions of the Press Committee have been put into effect and the pay of the employees considerably reduced.

PRESIDENT: Have orders been passed by Government?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): Yes.

PRESIDENT. Have the Press people received orders?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): The Superintendent has put the suggestions of the committee into effect.

PRESIDENT: I do not think he has put them into effect. Are you sure of it?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): That is what the employees in the Press say. They say that those earning about Rs. 30 before are now getting only about Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 a month.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter which you could have verified easily by asking the Superintendent or the authorities concerned.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know from Mr. M. N. Pillai whether it is not in the Gazette section in the Government Press that orders have been passed by Government?

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): I think that, only in the Gazette section, orders have been passed. I would, in the interest of the employees, ask the Government to take up the report early and pass final orders as soon as possible.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*: Sir, most of the suggestions mentioned by Mr. Madhava Variar are contained in the Press Committee's Report. I concede there has been some delay in passing final orders upon it by Government. The reason was that we wanted to refer the suggestions of the Press Committee to an expert.

MR. M. N. PILLAI (*Trivandrum*): There was already an expert in the committee.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The matter being an important one, it had to be referred to the best expert available.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know from the Chief Secretary whether he has referred it to the best expert?

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MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. It was referred to the Examiner of Accounts of the Government Presses in India.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether an expert was not got down for the purpose?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, he was.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Was he an expert officer?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Are the reports made by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Industries sent to outside experts for opinion?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They are not generally sent.

PRESIDENT: Not the ordinary reports.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Is not the head of the Government Press a technical man?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Nedumangad*): Then why should there be a distinction made?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was to examine the working of the Press presided over by a technical man that the committee was appointed. The matter being a highly technical one, Government thought that it would be advisable to refer the report to the best expert available.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether an expert was not got down on a pay of Rs. 600?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is not the Press working at a very great loss just now?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that unless costing accounts are prepared.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it a fact that the linotype machine is doing no work?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Press Committee has condemned the working of that machine.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What is its price?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): About ten to twelve thousand rupees.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know the number of copies printed with that machine?

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[Mr. N. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I believe it is in the Administration Report.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know whether the Government have referred the matter to the expert?

PRESIDENT: The expert's opinion has already been received.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Have the Government incurred any additional expenditure by way of referring the report of the Press Committee to an outside expert?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Absolutely nothing. The matter will be taken up and orders passed on the committee's report soon. If it is found possible to reduce the expenditure on the Press, it will also be done.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Press Committee's Report be placed on the table?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pettanamtitta*): I withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a sum of Rs. 2·74 lakhs be granted under Demand XVII—Stationery and Printing. I take it that the House sanctions the Demand.

The grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·48 lakh under Demand XVIII—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.

Motion 322.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I beg to move the following motion:—

322. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,000 for purchase of animals by Rs. 4,500.

Sir, my object in making the motion is to point out the necessity for reducing this amount.

PRESIDENT: Reducing which amount?

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): The amount in the budget.

PRESIDENT: It is not a reduction that you propose, but it amounts almost to a total extinction of this item.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikam* cum *Ettumanur*): I may be permitted to point out that, in the previous years, the amount

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